

## Soviets offer Gulf mediation

NICOSIA (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, making an official visit to Iran, said Tuesday the Soviet Union was willing to mediate in deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq. Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Shevardnadze as saying the Soviet Union was willing to exploit good relations with both Gulf war foes in an effort to further the talks. The talk started five days after a United Nations-mediated ceasefire halted the war last Aug. 26 but deadlocked immediately. Further rounds of negotiation faltered over Tehran's demand that Iraq must withdraw all its troops from 1,000 square kilometers of Iranian territory and Baghdad's insistence that the Shatt Al Arab waterway should belong to Iraq. Iran argues that sovereignty over the waterway should be shared. Referring to recently improved bilateral ties, Shevardnadze said: "Our two countries have opened a new chapter in relations." "We are prepared to expand ties in all fields with respect to the socio-political order which the Iranian nation has independently chosen," the radio quoted him as saying.

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## Arab panel drops effort in Lebanon

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Arab mediators have admitted defeat in a two-month drive to bring peace to Lebanon.

Joining a list of failures stretching back over 14 years, the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia said Monday night despite exhaustive contacts with Arab and international powers they were unable to end the civil war.

The committee expresses its regrets that its mission has reached a dead end in both the security and political fields," said a communiqué issued after two days of talks in Algiers and Rabat.

The carnage of Lebanon's civil war forms the background to the announcement from a pro-Iranian kidnappers Monday that they hanged American hostage William Higgins as punishment for Israel's abduction of a South Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim cleric.

Fierce shelling has shaken the Lebanese capital on four nights in the past week. More than 500 people have died in artillery battles since mid-March.

Following the Algiers announcement, Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun Tuesday declared a "popular liberation revolt" against Syrian troops in Lebanon.

"The era of the popular liberation revolt will not be far... it will be a sweeping river of resistance in every city, village, street and house," Aoun said in an order of the day.

The general's 20,000 predominantly Christian forces have been locked in fierce shelling duels with Syrian-backed militiamen since March 8.

Militia and Aoun gunners battled overnight across Beirut with towtrucks and rockets. Police said one person was killed and four were wounded before the duel

subsided into intermittent exchanges of mortar rounds and machine gun fire.

The casualties raised the overall toll to 51 killed and 2,162 wounded in the 20-week confrontation across the ravaged capital and the surrounding mountains.

Lebanon has had no president, two rival cabinets, a divided army and a paralysed parliament since former President Amin Gemayel stepped down last September.

An Arab summit last May gave leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria six months to solve the crisis but repeated ceasefire calls and hectic diplomatic shuffles did little to halt bloodshed in Lebanon.

A diplomat close to the talks said the longstanding rivalry between Syria and Iraq had been a major factor in the failure, with Syria insisting on controls to prevent Iraqi arms reaching forces led by Aoun.

But the communiqué also cited other obstacles including the Israeli occupation of part of southern Lebanon and Syria's refusal to accept a timetable for the withdrawal of its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

Syria feels that the extension of Lebanese sovereignty (over all Lebanon's territory) must not be decided in advance in accordance with a fixed timetable, but must be left until after the establishment of a government of national unity," the ministers said.

The committee had urged a temporary redeployment of Syrian troops in the Bekaa Valley.

The committee said it had proposed that a special session of the Lebanese parliament on neutral ground outside Lebanon discuss a charter for a "democratic, free parliamentary regime offering equality of chances for all citizens."



Children in west Beirut fill a bag with sand to fortify their home against fierce shelling which erupts frequently across the Lebanese capital.

## King, Iraqi leader exchange messages

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on current Arab issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The message was conveyed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, who also received a message from the King to be carried to the Iraqi president, Petra said.

The audience as attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the minister of interior and senior Royal Court officials.

The King also received separate telephone calls from President Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The two leaders congratulated

the King on the occasion of the Islamic New Year.

The King made a telephone call to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to convey similar congratulations.

The Iraqi envoy, Ramadan, arrived here earlier Tuesday on a short visit to Jordan.

In a statement to Petra, Ramadan said that his visit to Jordan came within the framework of the firm relations between the two countries and continued exchange of views about the developments in the Arab scene.

On prospects for an Iraq-Iran peace talks, he said it "is necessary to arrive at a unified Arab position along side Iraq so that a comprehensive solution could be worked out in accordance with

U.N. Security Council Resolution 598."

Stressing that Iraq is not against establishing normal relations with Iran, Ramadan said: "It is necessary, in the first place, to end the no-war/no-peace situation and attain durable peace because this means consolidation of security and stability in the Arab region as a whole."

Upon arrival Ramadan was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Mas'adeh, a number of ministers, and the Iraqi chargé d'affaires in Amman.

Ramadan will open the two-week exhibition of Iraqi products Wednesday at the King Abdullah Gardens Complex.

## Jordan to hold debt talks with Moscow

AMMAN (R) — Jordan will open talks with the Soviet Union next week on rescheduling its debts to Moscow, which are mainly military in origin, a Jordanian official said Tuesday.

"We hope to reschedule our debt to Moscow on the same principles and terms under which we rescheduled our foreign debt to the Paris Club of official creditors," he told Reuters.

The official would not reveal the size of the debt but said a figure of \$200 million reported in an Arabic-language magazine was too high.

Jordan first turned to the Soviet Union for arms in 1982, buying SAM-3 missiles and ZSU-23-4 anti-aircraft guns. It also signed an air defence contract with Moscow in 1985 after Washington refused a deal for Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

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Rabin, through his office, wants to gain international public opinion by discrediting others when he links the Israeli prisoners to the Western hostages with whom we have nothing to do," Tuesday's Hizbullah statement said.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters that while Egypt expressed deep sorrow and condemnation for the killing of Higgins "this does not lessen what Israel has done in acts of violence which Egypt has already said will lead to more acts of violence."

A leading member of the U.S. Senate, Robert Dole, accused Israel of endangering American lives by abducting Obeid in the raid into southern Lebanon.

World governments on Tuesday condemned the reported hanging of Higgins and criticized Israel for abducting Obeid.

## Deadline extended

Captors threatening to kill American hostage Joseph James Cicippio said Tuesday they have extended the deadline for his execution by 48 hours. The Revolutionary Justice Organization made the announcement in a 13-line handwritten statement in Arabic delivered to the independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar at 8:15 p.m. (1715 GMT). The statement was accompanied by an authenticating instantaneous picture of another U.S. hostage, author Edward Austin Tracy, also held by the group. The statement said the 48-hour postponement "was not subject to renewal."

denied the reported execution of Higgins but said responsibility for his death rested in Israeli shoulders.

In a written statement, the PLO advisor said: "We regret the murder of innocent and their execution without trial and without charges and we express our sympathy with their families."

The statement continued: "We condemn the abduction of innocents and the taking of hostages and those who are the authors and we condemn even more the state of Israel which practices state terrorism."

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) described Israel's seizure of Obeid as state terrorism and said it was aimed at drawing attention from the Palestinian uprising.

Another group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said it "holds the U.S.-backed Israeli government fully responsible for escalating tension in Lebanon by kidnapping Sheikhs Obeid."

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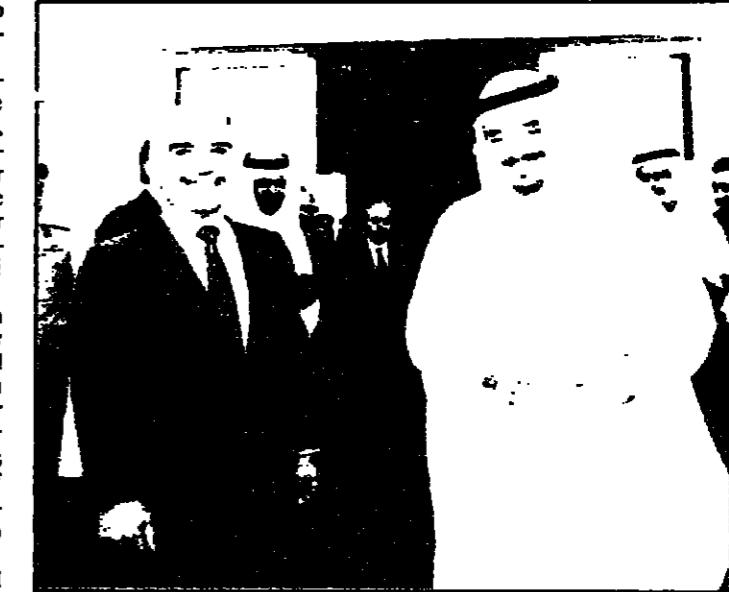
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## King returns after summit with Fahd Sharif Zaid, Qasem continue Jeddah talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Tuesday at the conclusion of a brief working visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held

talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes as well as bilateral relations.



His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah Tuesday (Petra photo)

God deliver you from every difficulty and preserve you."

Upon return, the King was received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members and senior civilian and military officials.

## Meeting reviews Palestinian refugee affairs, aid to intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — Developments in the Palestinian problem, threats to the holy places in occupied Jerusalem and means of supporting the ongoing intifada are the central themes on the agenda of a seven-day meeting of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees which opened in Amman Tuesday.

Jordan's representative at the meeting, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, said that in light of Jordan's strong attachment to Palestine and its people and the historic and geographical and national considerations, Jordan would continue to extend all possible help to the Palestinian people and support their steadfastness and their just struggle for freedom.

Qatanani, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, told the meeting that Jordan's decision a year ago to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank was part of an ongoing process in supporting the Palestinian stand.

At the same time, Jordan has never ceased to work for a just solution to the problem through implementation of U.N. resolutions and in cooperation with all concerned parties and the United

Nations secretary general through an international peace conference, Qatanani said.

The convening of the meeting, the 43rd of its kind, comes amid very sensitive circumstances in the whole Middle East area and while the intifada is entering its 20th month, Qatanani noted.

He said the past 20 months witnessed an escalation of Israel's atrocities represented in killing Palestinians, demolishing Arab homes, expulsion of Palestinian youths, imposition of curfews and mass arrests, coupled with economic measures that rendered the oppressed people in a very pitiful condition.

The meeting, Qatanani said, will address a host of topics related to the Palestinians and their conditions together with the subjects related to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides for the education of Palestinian refugee children.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Al Farra described Jordan's continued assistance to the Palestinian people as directed towards alleviating their suffering and enhancing their steadfastness. Farra also

commended Jordan's decisions concerning the Palestine problem and said that they could only back the oppressed people's struggle for freedom and just peace.

The secret of the intifada's success, Farra said, is its continuation and, therefore, Arab and international support for the Palestinians is urgently required.

Farra noted that the Amman meeting would address a number of issues pertaining to the Palestinians and their present conditions. Israel's settlement policies, the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Arab areas under occupation and ways to continue the flow of all kinds of assistance to the oppressed people.

According to Farra, the meeting will review a report by the UNRWA commissioner general to the United Nations on the agency's operations in the Arab World.

Mohammad Jumaa, director of Palestinian affairs at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, addressed the session referring to Egypt's continued involvement in Palestinian affairs despite its absence from previous meetings.

## Paris talks form panels, assign mission to Combodia

PARIS (Agencies) — An international peace conference on Cambodia agreed Tuesday to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the war-torn country and set up a working structure aimed at securing a lasting peace.

"This constitutes a great first step forward on the path which should provide a return to peace for this country," said Foreign Minister Roland Dumas of France, co-chairman with Indonesia of the monthlong conference.

"I think I can say without exaggeration that this beginning augurs well for the conference," said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, speaking at a joint news conference with Dumas. "In this sense we can rejoice."

Dumas said representatives from the 19 nations at the conference were stalled "until the final moment" of the ministerial session, which ended midday Tuesday. The countries' foreign ministers are to return to Paris to close the conference Aug. 28-30.

Dumas said the biggest stalling point was setting up the fact-finding mission, but he did not elaborate.

The fact-finding mission, to be put together by U.N. General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar, is to be sent to Cambodia as soon as possible, Dumas said.

The conference had reached "unanimous agreement" on the agenda for month-long talks, he said. Four working groups had been set up to continue the ministers' work.

Dumas said the mission was to report to experts in Paris who are urgently trying to arrange monitoring of the Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia.

No other details of the mission were available.

French diplomats said three of the working groups had been settled without much dissent.

They cover verification of the withdrawal of Vietnam's troops from Cambodia in September, international guarantees of

Cambodian territory and neutrality and the problems of refugees and reconstruction.

Canada and India are to co-chair the commission defining the modalities of a control mechanism; Laos and Malaysia will co-chair the guarantees commission; and Japan and Australia will head the refugee and reconstruction commission.

The pullout of the Vietnamese troops is seen as a major step to end 10 years of war between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's Hanoi-backed government and opposition groups led by former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

But a fourth "ad hoc" group to tackle internal Cambodian problems had been settled only after diplomatic wrangling.

The ministerial agreement was limited in matters of the conference agenda and did not address the most significant issues dividing the warring Cambodian parties and their foreign supporters.



## Kabul coup plot reportedly foiled

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Fears of an attempted coup have led to a roundup of suspected conspirators within Afghanistan's Communist Party, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

Hints of a coup attempt surfaced about weeks ago, said one Western diplomatic source who insisted he not be identified.

"There is no indication of how close to being launched the reported plot was when it was discovered," the diplomat told the AP.

"Multiple sources have reported a sudden upsurge in tension within the PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan).

A left-wing Pakistan newspaper, the Frontier Post, claimed Afghanistan Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai was under house arrest for his involvement in the foiled coup attempt. However, Western diplomats said the report could not be substantiated.

The Frontier Post quoted the pro-rebel Afghan Media Resource Centre. It claimed the coup attempt was hatched after Moscow reportedly suggested returning former Afghan President Babrak Karmal to power. He was Najibullah's predecessor.

Karmal belongs to the Parcham (Flag) faction of the Communist Party, while Najibullah is a member of the rival Khalq (Masses) faction. Animosity has characterised the relationship between the two factions since their creation decades ago.

Insurgents have been waging a war against Soviet-backed communists in Kabul for more than a decade.

Diplomats said Tuesday that fighting around the key eastern city of Jalalabad continued unabated. U.S.-supported rebels reportedly repulsed government troops trying to force them out of mountain hideouts overlooking key government positions, the same diplomatic sources said.

Jalalabad, 720 kilometres west of the Pakistan border, straddles the strategic highway connecting neighbouring Pakistan to the Afghan capital of Kabul. Kabul is 120 kilometres to its west.

Confused reports about the fate of the key garrison at Samarkh, outside Jalalabad, have

been arriving in Pakistan, where the insurgents are based. Diplomats reported government troops have on several occasions driven into Samarkh in tanks and armoured vehicles, only to be driven out again by rebels pounding them from nearby mountain positions.

Diplomats said resupply planes are landing at Jalalabad airport fortifying government troops.

Rebel attempts to squeeze the capital of Kabul economically by keeping the roads closed have been erratic and for the most part unsuccessful, rebel and diplomatic sources said.

### Rocket attacks

On Monday, rebel rockets hit a hospital, a crowded bus stop, an auto shop and several homes in Kabul, killing as many as 17 people, hospital officials said.

Also Monday, U.S. and Soviet delegations began two days of talks in Stockholm, Sweden, on Afghanistan, as part of a series of superpower consultations on regional conflicts.

It was the first such meeting on the 10-year Afghan war since the last Soviet troops left the country Feb. 15.

Meanwhile, rebel reports said 59 people, most of them women and children, were killed in another round of fighting among rebel factions.

In Monday's attacks on the capital, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said nine people were killed and 22 injured in attacks at Avicenna Chest hospital, the hospital's auto shop and a nearby bus stop. But hospital officials put the total killed in three attacks at 17.

Crowds gathered later around a hastily dug grave at the side of a shop near the bus stop. On top of the grave was one torn black leather shoe and a chunk of metal from the rocket.

The thud of rockets could be heard in Kabul throughout the day, and Amani said others fell in the diplomatic quarter and on houses in the old city and western Kabul.

A bloody power struggle between the Jamiat-e-Islami rebel group and its rival Hezb-e-Islami

erupted a fortnight ago when reports of a massacre of 32 Jamiat fighters on July 9 reached the frontier city of Peshawar, Pakistan.

On Monday, Qaribur Rahman Saeed, a Hekmatyar loyalist, said four of Hezb-e-Islami's field commanders as well as 55 women and children died when Jamiat forces founded the village of Ochi Quba with heavily artillery and long-range missiles.

The village is near the northern city of Kunduz, located about 70 kilometres south of Afghanistan's border with the Soviet Union.

The U.S.-Soviet meeting in Stockholm came as reports from Afghanistan indicated both superpowers had recently stepped up arms shipments — to the government of Najibullah and the Mujahideen guerrillas.

A U.S. spokesman confirmed that the delegations, headed by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly and Soviet Ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozyrov, had met but said the parties had agreed to keep the talks confidential.

"These are working discussions, not negotiations. The aim is to understand each other's positions and identify possible points of movement," the spokesman said.

"From the U.S. perspective, we see this as an area where both of us honestly want to see a solution," he said.

When Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February, many Western observers expected the Najibullah government to collapse within weeks.

But the Mujahideen, hampered by internal divisions, have secured only six of the 31 provincial capitals and lost a long struggle to take Jalalabad.

The Soviet ambassador in Kabul said last month that the Soviet delegation would use the Stockholm meeting to propose an agreement with the United States obliging both superpowers to stop supplying arms for the war.

"It's a very effective means of stopping the fighting... if we and the Americans agree to stop now, the fighting will subside immediately," said Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov.

Vorontsov said after a meeting

you can't order action out of frustration," said Barry Blechman, a military expert with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

The United States has 21 warships, including the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and battleship Iowa, in the Mediterranean.

U.S. conventional firepower was deployed against Libya in 1986 after U.S. officials claimed they had established a clear link between that country and the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by American soldiers.

Perhaps reflecting the magnitude of the problem, Bush bristled when asked by reporters what action he might take, saying "this is a matter of grave concern to the American people and discussing in some half-way manner what might or might not be done is not the way to conduct a foreign policy or the national security policy of this country."

They said there were few obviously effective means of swift superpower vengeance against the shadowy underground groups operating in the Middle East quagmire.

"There is no address there where you can drop bombs. This is not an army you're fighting. What you have is a dirty political situation," said Judith Kipper of the private Washington-based Brookings Institution.

"The United States doesn't have many more information for effective military action right now than it did five days ago or a year ago," said Fred Axelgard at the Centre of Strategic and International Studies, another independent think tank.

President George Bush Monday condemned the reported

killings by pro-Iranian kidnappers and cut short a trip to the Midwest to return to the White House and consider a response.

Bush, facing a major crisis with his presidency only six months old, said he was to convene his national security advisers to "establish to the best of our ability if this report is true and what might conceivably be done."

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Eight other Americans are still held hostage in Lebanon, completely exposed to punishment for any U.S. action.

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## Ministry to celebrate Islamic New Year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold religious ceremony at Al Husseini Mosque, downtown Amman, on Wednesday afternoon on the eve of the Kingdom's celebration of the New Islamic Year which falls on Thursday, Aug. 3.

Dr. Mahmoud Awad from the Ministry of Awqaf said that similar religious ceremonies will be held at various mosques throughout the Kingdom.

The government announced that all government institutions and public organisations will remain closed on the occasion.

The Ministry of Awqaf also announced Tuesday that it has embarked on studying reports about the procedure of Haj, Islamic

pilgrimage to Mecca, performed earlier last month.

The reports have been submitted by special committees supervising the pilgrimage, upon request from the ministry which normally organises the pilgrimage for Jordanian Muslims.

Also Tuesday a Ministry of Awqaf committee charged with supporting the restoration of mosques and carrying out charitable activities, held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.

The committee, which groups representatives of religious organisations in Jordan and Kuwait, is also in charge of allocating funds for handicapped children and the Zakat (alms for the poor) funds.

## Government studying sale of Sawt Al Shaab

AMMAN (AP) — Information Minister Nasouh Al Majali said Monday the government is studying sale of the Sawt Al Shaab newspaper, one of three dailies it owns in the Kingdom.

"We are going to start the process of privatising, starting with Sawt Al Shaab," Majali told reporters at a periodic luncheon meeting.

He said it would "not necessarily" also sell off its majority interest in the Kingdom's other two Arabic daily newspapers, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour, which it

took over last year — removing them from the private sector.

The government owns 80 to 85 per cent of Sawt Al Shaab, which claims a circulation of a little over 20,000 a day. A source at the newspaper said it had lost about JD 1 million since 1983.

Majali said an announcement of the sale was expected "very soon."

He said it was possible that some shares would be sold on the local stock market while others might go to groups.

### NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**ROYAL DECREE:** A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving an agreement between the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) on cooperating in legal and judicial matters. The agreement signed in Alexandria last month allows for the extradition of criminals among the four member countries. Another Royal Decree issued Tuesday endorsed an amendment to a law concerning the employment of doctors and pharmacists by the Jordanian Armed Forces and their allowances. (Petra)

**PRINCESS BASMA OPENS EXHIBITION:** Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday opened an exhibition of natural rose saplings at the Royal Cultural Centre. The proceeds of the three-day exhibition will go to the Friends of Kidney Patients Association. (Petra)

**ACC EDUCATION MINISTERS MEET:** Minister of Education Dr. Abdullah Nasour has led the Jordanian educational delegation to the first meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of education which opened in Baghdad Tuesday. During the three-day meetings, the ministers will set new strategies for cooperation and coordination in the field of education, unification of curricula, scholarships, as well as massing of efforts with regard to elimination of illiteracy and teaching the elderly. (Petra)

**MAJALI OPENS EXHIBITION OF CARTOONS:** Minister of Information and Culture Nasouh Al Majali Tuesday opened an exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rabah Al Sughayyar who used to work for the Jordan Press Foundation, Al Ra'i and Jordan Times. The several-day exhibition, held by the Plastic Artists Association, includes a collection of his works. (Petra)

**ASSAD RECEIVES MALAYSIAN ENVOY:** Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nasseruddin Al Assad Tuesday received the Malaysian ambassador to Jordan at the conclusion of his tour of duty. During the meeting, they discussed means to bolster bilateral relations. (Petra)

**NEW INDUSTRIAL GUIDEBOOK:** The Amman Chamber of Industry has issued a new guidebook on Jordanian industries for 1989. The guidebooks, issued in Arabic and English, includes a list of Jordanian industrial companies, their various products and size of production. (Petra)

**ARAB TRADE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION:** Jordan, along with 11 Arab countries, is taking part in a three-day meeting which started in Tunis Tuesday to discuss cooperation in trade and economic cooperation. Facilitating trade among Arab countries and removing all forms of customs restrictions on 36 types of industrial commodities, will be among the subjects to be discussed at the meeting, which is being attended by specialised Arab League organisations and a number of Arab funds and financial institutions. (Petra)

**COURT FOR JUDGES ENDS:** A total of twenty-five judges and attorney generals have concluded a month-long course at the Jordan Judicial Institute. (Petra)

## ACC chambers of industry will meet in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (Petra) — Unions of Chambers of Industry in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will hold a meeting in Alexandria on Aug. 28 and 29 to discuss coordination among the four countries in industry-related affairs.

Dr. Adel Jazairi, head of the Egyptian Industries Federation who made the announcement, said that the Chambers of Industry were expected also to announce the establishment of a

federation for their chambers in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen during the coming two-day meeting. In fact, he said, committees from the four countries have been at work preparing for the federation.

In addition, he said, the coming meeting will discuss the implementation of a number of joint industrial projects and in establishment of an industrial bank benefiting the four countries.

## Jordan marks Queen Zein's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wednesday marks the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

On this joyous occasion, the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to Her Majesty and proudly remember her untiring devotion and sacrifices to the Kingdom.

Her Majesty has embodied the greatest sense of motherhood by selflessly devoting her entire life to her eldest son His Majesty King Hussein, her sons Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Prince Hassan, the Crown Prince, and her daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Queen Mother has also contributed to the strong women's movement in Jordan, leading the way as a staunch defender of women's rights.

The Queen Mother contributes effectively to social and humanitarian services and gives particular attention to



HM Queen Zein Al Sharaf

charitable organisations and voluntary institutions.

She was president of the first women's society in Jordan in 1944 and since then she spared no efforts in providing support for all voluntary and humanitarian causes in the Kingdom.

Much of the Queen Mother's

attention is directed towards an orphanage in Amman named after her, providing it with care, financial assistance and backing.

May Her Majesty enjoy a pleasant birthday and the Jordanian people wish her many happy returns of the day.

## Ein Ghazal archaeological site receives municipal protection

AMMAN (AP) — A major archaeological site won partial protection from development Tuesday when the city of Amman expropriated land for it, the mayor said.

Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said the city expropriated about 40 dunums (roughly 10 acres) at Ein Ghazal on the capital's outskirts and would present it to the Department of Antiquities.

Excavations at Ein Ghazal, which started in 1982, uncovered settlements dating back to about

7,250 B.C. and produced several startling human statuettes more than 8,600 years old.

The Stone Age village thrived at about the same time as early Jericho — and appears to have been far larger, according to archaeologists.

The first excavation project, led by archaeologists from Jordan, San Diego State University in California and the University of Nevada, Reno, finished last month.

But Department of Antiquities

Director Ghazi Bisha said work would continue. "It's going to take maybe decades to investigate the site," he said.

The site was discovered when bulldozers cut into the earth in building a highway. That development and others destroyed much of the site.

"In a way it's a pity that a large part of it is lost, but we cannot help it," said Bisha, who noted that without the road project, the ancient village would never have been discovered.

## Amman-Irbid road project is expected to end in summer 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — A JD 6.5 million road project linking Amman with the northern city of Irbid which was due to be completed last February, is now expected to be accomplished in the summer of 1990, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh.

Work on the project started in March 1987 but due to unexpected difficulties encountered by the local contracting company, there were inevitable delays, the minister said in an exclusive interview with the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

The minister noted that the Ministry of Public Works had set up a committee to investigate the delays and to supervise the completion of the project.

"Thanks to the diligent work of the committee at least 65 per cent of the total project has now been completed, and summer 1990 is the new deadline for the total completion," the minister added.

Referring to some of the factors that caused the delay,

tors to undertake major projects, Zawaideh pointed out.

In the past five years the Ministry of Public Works awarded a total of JD 655 million worth of road projects to all contractors and nearly JD 448 million went to local contractors, Zawaideh noted.

Foreign firms awarded tenders for building roads normally employ Jordanian labourers and a lot of the locally produced building materials, the minister added.

The minister disclosed that due to the present economic situation in Jordan a number of road projects have been cancelled during 1989 and in planning projects for 1990 the ministry will take into consideration the fact that such reduction in road projects will continue.

But the minister said that allocations will be made for important projects to be implemented during the coming year in addition to maintenance work on existing roads.

## Technical college to provide 4-year scientific courses for Yarmouk

IRBID (J.T.) — A technical college affiliated to Yarmouk University will provide four year courses in electronics, communications, computers as well as energy distribution and control starting from the coming 1989-1990 academic year, according to an announcement by the college dean, Dr. Mohammad Abu Saleh.

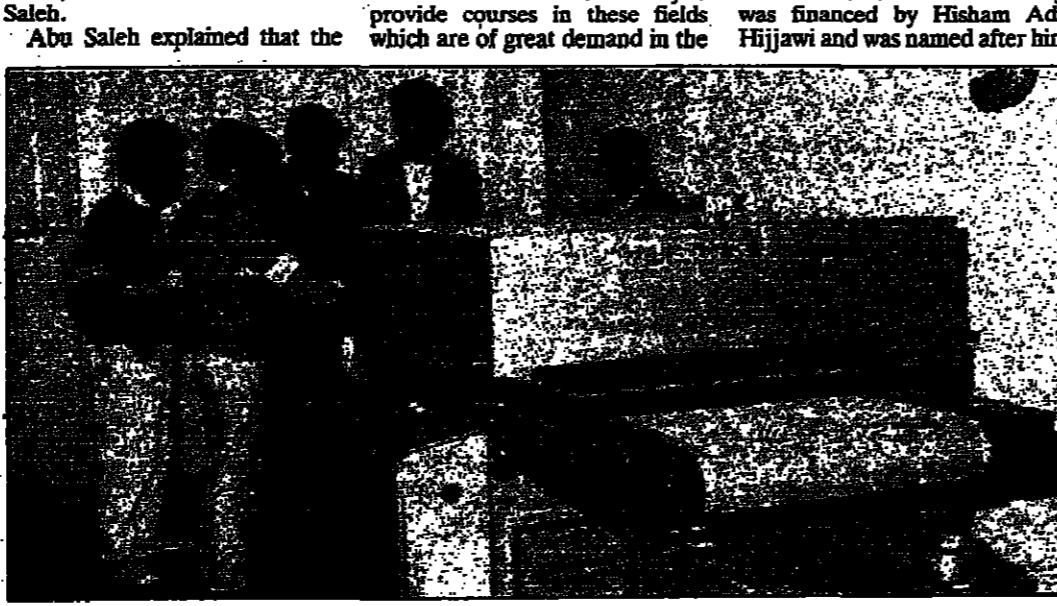
Abu Saleh explained that the

college, which was established in 1984, used to turn out graduates with three-year courses awarding them only a diploma, but arrangements have been made so that from now on graduates will receive a B.Sc. degree in these specialisations.

Special laboratories have now been installed at the University to provide courses in these fields which are of great demand in the local market and abroad, Abu Saleh added.

When the college was first established it admitted only 54 students but in the coming year a total of 180 students with Tawjihi certificates at an average of at least 80 per cent will be admitted, Abu Saleh pointed out.

Abu Saleh said that the college was financed by Hisham Adib Hijjawi and was named after him.



Students at the Hisham Adib Hijjawi College receive training in energy distribution and control.

## Committees begin revising voter lists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Committees entrusted with revising voter lists for the coming parliamentary elections embarked on their task Wednesday and according to the law they have 57 days to complete their work, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin said.

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that nomination of candidates running for elections will take place 25 days before the election day, and that the counting of votes should be completed in one day, according to the election law.

The election law states that the cabinet should set the date of the elections following the issuance of the Royal Decree.

The government has not yet announced the exact date for the elections but press reports predict that it will be in November.

Another Royal Decree issued last month endorsed an amendment to the 1986 election law which increased the number of seats in the Lower House of Parliament from 72 to 80.

The amendment included modifications on constituency divisions which, under the revised law will be divided according to governorates except for Amman and Irbid Governorates.

Under the new law, Irbid Governorate will have 19 seats in the coming parliament.

Balqa Governorate eight, Zarqa six, Mafraq three, Karak nine, Ma'an five, Tafila three and the Badia six seats.

Petra reported from Karak that a local committee charged with revising voter lists has started its work and is registering citizens wishing to vote in the coming election.

Karak Governor Fayez Al Abbadi said that four centres have been opened in the Karak area for the registration process.



Mohammad Ali Al Amin

area for the registration process.

Similar committees have embarked on the task in Tafila, Zarqa, Irbid and other areas.

Irbid Governor Jawdat Shub said that the Irbid Governorate has been divided into five election areas to facilitate the election process.

He said that a total of 28,121 citizens in the governorate, out of nearly one million people, are eligible to vote, but after the revision of the voter lists the number was expected to jump to 300,000.

Meanwhile, an official at the Ministry of Interior said Tuesday that the committees have been asked to continue the process of registering voters Friday which is a public holiday so as to cope with the number of people wishing to register.



### ARAMCO gets \$50,000 to Bethlehem University

AMMAN — The Arab-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) of Saudi Arabia has donated \$50,000 to Bethlehem University to help it carry out with its educational tasks in the occupied Arab territories. A cheque for the sum was handed to Bethlehem University President Dr. Raouf Najjar

by ARAMCO representative in Jordan Jamal Al Sarrafi, who wished the university continued success in its endeavours. ARAMCO spends more than a million dollars annually in support of Arab universities and charitable organisations in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands (Petra photo)

## Arab anti-smoking conference to be held in Amman on Sept. 2

By Suhair Obeidat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Towards an Anti-Smoking Arab Society" will be the slogan of the second Arab anti-smoking conference, to be held in Amman from Sept. 2 to 4.

The conference is organised by the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to the president of the preparatory committee of the conference, Dr. Mohammad Shreim, all Arab countries were invited, and hopefully will participate.

The opening session will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and closed working sessions are to be held at the Philadelphia Hotel.

Speaking in a press conference Tuesday, Shreim announced that the conference will decide upon the naming of the unified Arab action against smoking, preliminarily called "the Anti-Smoking Arab Group."

The conference will endorse the basic law and internal system for the group, to be based in Amman, and will issue an official statement to announce the creation of the group," he said.

Shreim stressed the importance of such a group, so as to find the best ways to fight smoking, by which time, effort and money will be saved.

He added that the group aims at defining the size and nature of the smoking problem in the Arab World, so as to reach unified and coordinated efforts and plans to fight smoking and protect the coming generations from its dangers.

The group also aims at changing social values regarding the smoking habit, and will try to highlight its negative effects on

the individuals and the society as a whole," he said.

According to Shreim, the society will carry out a comprehensive statistical study, in which the size of the smoking problem will be defined. "This is a unique study that has not yet been carried out in any other Arab country," Shreim said.

It will encourage the inclusion of the smoking problem in school curricula, in addition to the holding of local and national seminars and conferences.

Anti-smoking societies and organisations are also to be formed in the Arab countries that do not, yet, have such activities.

Dr. Azmi Sharaya, a member of the administrative committee of the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, who is also a member of the preparation committee, spoke at the press conference, highlighting the activities of the society in the decrease of space on land meant for planting food," he said.

Tal said that aside from the fact that chemicals used for treating tobacco are very expensive, a notable amount is absorbed in the plant and later on transferred to the human body.

Tal then pointed out that the West, in its attempts to counteract the tobacco industry, has picked up a new trend, switching from medication to food, and that the Arab World is advised to follow this example.

### CONDOLENCES

The chief editor and staff of the Jordan Times express their deep condolences and sympathy with their colleague, Mathews Edavazhikal Mathai, over the untimely death of his wife,

## Jordan Times

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## Israeli terrorism

**U.S. SENATE** minority leader Robert Dole was of course right when he openly and strongly criticised Israel for abducting Lebanese Shi'ite leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid. The operation, Dole correctly asserted, has precipitated the killing of American hostage William Higgins and threatened the lives of nine American hostages and scores of others including Terry Waite. It is worthwhile recalling that Senator Dole has this to say in the aftermath of the kidnapping of Sheikh Obeid: "I would hope the Israelis would take another look at some of their actions which they must know in advance endanger American lives." He went on to say: "When it endangers the lives of Americans in some foreign country perhaps a little more responsibility on the part of the Israelis one of these days would be required."

Obviously Dole and many silent Americans have decided to speak up to release their pent up frustrations with Israel's behaviour. For much too long Israel was outrageously contemptuous of international norms and guidelines and often acted like a bandit state unperturbed by international law and customary nation-state rules. By taking the law into its own hands for decades, its vision and national behaviour became so distorted and warped that even its closest allies and friends became enraged and exasperated by its actions.

Surely Israel must know that it is one thing for an organisation or a group to engage in piracy and kidnapping and quite another for a modern state to lower itself so often to the same standard of behaviour. The central problem here is that Israel was allowed to get away with murder for so long that it got to the point where it calculates that it can continue to get away with murder, kidnapping, demolition of homes and expulsion of people from their country without causing much of a stir where it counts most.

Still, all these explanations would not lessen the gravity of the execution of Lt. Colonel Higgins, who was in the service of the United Nations when he was abducted a year and a half ago. His outrageous killing was apparently a reaction to the kidnapping of Sheikh Obeid and therefore he sadly paid with his own blood for the blatantly unstate-like abduction of Obeid by the Israeli army.

Now it seems that the lives of Terry Waite and others are also threatened unless Israel releases Sheikh Obeid forthwith. Under the circumstances it behoves Sheikh Obeid to exercise Islamic traditions, at their most solemn and sublime levels, by appealing to his people and supporters to refrain from further shedding of innocent blood in reaction to Israel's lawlessness. By taking the first compassionate move, Sheikh Obeid would surely gain the sympathy and support of all mankind which will surely galvanize on such a scale that his release would become imminent. By such a gesture, the true colour of Islam would shine ever more brilliantly for all other civilisations to see and appreciate.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AN editorial in Tuesday's edition of Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd on issues of concern to the Arab Nation. The paper said that the Palestine question in general and means to support the intifada in particular were at the top of the list of topics discussed by the two leaders. But the two monarchs have other issues on their mind too ranging from the situation in Lebanon and means to end the bloodshed there to bilateral subjects, the paper noted. The two leaders are deeply concerned over the interests of the Arab Nation and it is natural for them to come together and discuss issues like Lebanon and Palestine which have deep effect on the whole Arab Nation, the paper continued. King Hussein's endeavours, the paper said, do not stop at any Arab border but transcends all Arab lands where action is to be taken to safeguard Arab interests. There is no doubt, added the paper, that the economic situation in the Kingdom also will have a special attention at the talks in Saudi Arabia.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that the Jordanian people can not help sympathising with the family of the assassinated American colonel who was abducted and then killed in Lebanon in retaliation for Israel's terrorist actions and kidnapping of a local religious leader. Abdul Rahim Omar says that Israel and the United States are to blame for the escalation of tension and the continued bloodshed in the whole area, and for all Israel's atrocities committed against the innocent Arab people of Lebanon and Palestine. Israel has ignored a threat by the group that killed Higgins and has unsuccessfully tried to trade the abducted religious leader with three Israeli soldiers held by the same group, and thus it has caused the United States and the United Nations forces in Lebanon to lose an innocent soldier, the writer notes. He says that the Israelis have not succeeded in their evil plots neither has the United States secured the release of the abducted colonel thanks to the official and organised Israeli terrorist actions in the region. Had there been no Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in the first place, adds the writer, there would have never been any reason for the colonel and the U.N. forces to be present in that area, and had there been no Israeli abduction of the Shi'ite sheikh there would have never been any killing.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the coming parliamentary elections in Jordan and said that with the royal decree issued Monday the way is thus paved for the elections in the Kingdom. The decree was the first step coming in the wake of an end to all obstacles in the way of the elections and following preparations by the Ministry of Interior, said the paper. It noted that the local newspapers are now full of notices by the hopeful candidates urging the public to vote for them in the coming election expected in November. It seems that everything is gearing up for the elections in Jordan and it is a novelty for thousands of youths who are voting for the first time in their lives, added the paper. What is hoped, the paper added, is to see a greater awareness among the public so that the coming parliament will group true representatives of the Jordanian people.

## ECOLIGHT

# The dilemma of economic success

By Jawad Anani

THE panthers of Asia are now at the centre of world attention. They are truly the champions of the global economy in the decade 1985-1994. Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong have swept the world markets. Their total share of world trade has been increasing at astronomical rates, and their annual trade volume exceeds \$400 billion. They have under their disposal the largest foreign exchange reserves.

Taiwan merits special attention. This island of 36,000 square kilometres and twenty million people is showing a remarkable success. Twenty years ago they were famous for their cheap skilled labour, their textile and toys, and heavy dependence on exports to the U.S. Meanwhile, they had to stand ready for possible outside invasion, basically from mainland China. Thus, a good share of their hard work had to be allocated for defence purposes.

Taiwan is about 65 per cent mountains. The main natural resource these mountains avail is marble and granite and some semi-precious stones. The rest of the country is flat lands hosting the major cities and intensive agricultural activity. Despite that, the Taiwanese were able, through hard work, discipline and good

planning to achieve self-sufficiency in food and even export a substantial surplus.

The country's modern history started in 1949 when General Chiang Kai Chek arrived with his loyal troops and subjects into Formosa from mainland China. The job of assimilating the new migrants with the indigenous population started with a relatively high degree of success. The story of a forty year trip from rags to riches culminated in a country which feels that it is victimised by world politics and balance of power struggle that is treating them with injustice.

Taiwan's success is not without a price. A friend of mine, Mr. Li, keeps telling me: "We have too much freedom now. Our kids are spoilt and they want more and more everyday." Taipei is a city surrounded by mountains, and clouds of smog fill peoples' lungs. Traffic jams is a problem, and building more roads and freeways is very expensive in a country where the price of a square metre of land could reach \$50,000.

No matter what its problems are, Taiwan is a country that stands as an example for other countries eager to achieve

sustainable economic growth with abundant human skills, scarce natural resources and large external threats.

The country is fully aware of the challenges which lie ahead. They plan to meet them with vigour. Yet Taiwan is like Jordan in many ways. In success Taiwan has to keep standing on its toes, and periods of downturns it has to strive for survival. So far, Taiwan managed to carry through with flying colours.

The Far East is unique. It has its own deep rivalries. Yet, the people in that part of the world manage to find a civilised way to keep peace and shun aside the notion of open direct conflicts. Instead of war, General Weizao Chiang, son of Chiang Kai Chek, and chairman of Taiwan's National Security Council advocates what he calls "mellow offensive". It means "do not fight your enemy with your men. Pressure him to break from within."

Success has its problems. It leads to higher expectations. New generations begin to complain of the old ways. If the inter-generation diversity of opinions is not narrowed, seeds of conflict could prosper. This is the real human challenge facing Asia's tigers.

## Christians, Israel and the intifada

By Daoud Kuttab

THERE has long been a complex relationship between the Israeli authorities and the Christian community in the Holy Land. The Israelis largely succeeded in dealing differently with the religious leadership and the Christian community. The fact that the spiritual leadership mainly consists of foreign nationals, while the community is Palestinian, helped Israel maintain this dual relationship.

For many years the Israelis

have managed to keep the spiritual leadership either apolitical or pro-Israeli, despite the nationalist sentiments of the Palestinian Christian community. In return, the Israeli authorities provided the leaders with certain privileges. The church leaders' control over the community stems from the fact that the church is a major land owner and a provider of homes and salaries to many Christians. Also the fact that all issues relating to changes in personal status (marriages, divorces and inheritance papers) and controlled by the church gives its leaders another source of power.

It is against this background that Jerusalem's Israeli Mayor Teddy Kollek was shocked by a strongly anti-Israel political statement issued by the heads of the Christian communities in Jerusalem in late April. Normally calm and restrained, Kollek responded angrily by claiming that the statement was the product of "Muslim terror" and that the Christian community was being threatened by the Muslim majority. This was untrue, and Kollek never provided any evidence for it, but it reflected another area where the gap between Israel and those living in the areas occupied in 1967 was widening.

Ever since the Israeli occupation, the authorities have been successful in claiming the support, or at least the lack of antagonism, of the Christian community's leaders. Unlike its relations with the Islamic waqf, the Israelis have gone to great lengths to stay on good terms with the church leaders, who generally have excellent relations with Israel's firm supporters in Israel and the U.S. good relations with Israel were also the desire of church leaders themselves, who wanted to preserve their properties and privileges. The Israeli government exempted the church from paying taxes (the Islamic

orthodox, was witnessing a major process of Palestinianisation of its clergy. The appointment of a Palestinian at its head increased the pressure on church leaders to take a political stand.

For months after the intifada started the churches did little. In January 1988 they called for a week of prayer and fasting and said that the church stood with the oppressed, but did little to follow this up. Even when predominantly Christian towns like Beit Sahur and Beit Jala were under curfew, the church leaders were unable to do more than visit them after the curfew had been lifted.

Two months ago, however, the Greek Orthodox Church suddenly became genuinely interested in political issues. Sources close to the church said that this began

after a visit by the church spokesman, Bishop Timothy, to Greece, one of the PLO's strongest European supporters. When a Palestinian youth was gunned down in the old city of Jerusalem, the Orthodox patriarch and his entourage visited the family and brought them gifts of food and clothing. All the other church leaders followed suit. When the issue of the traditional Palm Sunday march was being discussed, the Orthodox religious leaders called for it to be cancelled because of the intifada.

The Orthodox went a step further: they asked the leaders of all the major churches in Jerusalem to sign a joint statement concerning the situation in the occupied territories. It was the strongest statement against Israel

issued by the Christian leaders since 1967. It spoke about collective punishment, indiscriminate killings, demolition of homes, violations of the right to worship, imprisonment without trial and deportations and called for the opening of the schools and universities.

It is not known exactly why the Greek Orthodox Church has changed its tune. It could be that the pressure from the community has reached a stage where the leadership can no longer sit on the fence. The Greek government could also have been a major factor in the church's politicisation. It is widely known that the Greek consul-general in Jerusalem was not happy with the church's apathy towards the plight of Palestinians.

Another reason could be that the Orthodox Church realises that changes on the ground are certain to come and therefore it wants to have better relations with the Palestinian national movement — it does not want to be caught backing the losing side. In this respect, it is noteworthy that a major American mission organisation, whose leaders have asked that they should not be identified at present, is planning to break away from their parent organisation, which is close to the Israelis, and to establish a separate mission board strictly for East Jerusalem and the West Bank. It is becoming clear that Israel can no longer count on unquestioned support from the Christian religious authorities in Jerusalem — Middle East International, London.

## Black opposition groups brace for government 'peace offensive'

By David Crary  
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — For the first time, major anti-apartheid groups are acknowledging the possibility that the white government may try to seize the initiative in proposing a negotiated end to South Africa's racial conflict.

The prospect of a government "peace offensive" — perhaps including the release of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela — has prompted the ANC's exiled leadership and its supporters in South Africa to seek a unified stance regarding negotiations. They hope to reach a consensus within a week.

The activists and ANC guerrilla commanders say the government's manoeuvrings, including diplomatic overtures toward black Africa and President P.W. Botha's recent chat with Mandela, do not represent a sincere desire to end white-minority domination.

But the ANC, which has waged an anti-government bombing and sabotage campaign since 1961, appears worried that world opinion could tilt in the government's direction unless it comes up with a concrete, reasonable alternative.

The statement predicted that National Party leader F.W. de Klerk, expected to be elected president on Sept. 6, would back his call for all-party negotiations by meeting some of the long-standing preconditions of the ANC, such as releasing Mandela and his colleagues, lifting a

state of emergency, and easing restrictions on opposition political activity.

"The issue facing us now is how to keep the initiative in our hands on this strategic matter of negotiations," the ANC said in a document drafted earlier this month:

"What positions should be elaborated to ensure that it is our opponent who is forced to respond to us and not the other way around?" the document asked.

"Clearly, as a revolutionary movement, we cannot afford to tail behind the regime and fall into a defensive position, with the regime maintaining the offensive."

A more explicit statement, made public last week, was drafted in June at ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, after a meeting involving leaders of the biggest militant opposition group in South Africa — the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The statement predicted that National Party leader F.W. de Klerk, expected to be elected president on Sept. 6, would back his call for all-party negotiations by meeting some of the long-standing preconditions of the ANC, such as releasing Mandela and his colleagues, lifting a

state of emergency, and easing restrictions on opposition political activity.

As a result, the statement predicted, the ANC would face international pressure to abandon violence and possibly to modify its political demands, which include Socialist-oriented economy and a constitution affording no special protection for whites.

"We have to present proposals on this issue before the rest of the world comes up with something," the joint statement said. "We need to formulate a concept which does not surrender our political strategy to take power."

News reports in South Africa — by state-controlled and independent media — suggest the militants are in a state of near-panic, fearing that the government's concept of negotiations might be accepted by longtime ANC supporters such as the Soviet Union and black African states.

Militant leaders deny any disarray. But they acknowledged in last month's joint statement a "need to act swiftly" and have been trying to formulate a position to present to the Organisation of African Unity at its annual summit meeting.

De Klerk says the National Party will extend voting rights to the black majority within five years. He was indicated his party will insist on some sort of white veto power over major policy decisions and will demand the continuation of segregated schools and neighbourhoods for whites who want them.

A United Democratic Front official, Mohammad Valfi Moosa, said the government's "present utterances are not about genuine negotiations."

"In an attempt to break out of the crisis, (the government) is showing a false readiness to change so that they may demobilise the masses inside the country and ease international pressure," Valfi Moosa said in a speech.

Such skepticism is understandable in light of past instances where the government raised false hopes of change. But this time, the government's agreement to grant independence to Namibia and its increasing contacts with black African states have improved its international standing, and the ANC might find it awkward to dismiss a "peace offensive" too early.

Herman Cohen, the top African specialist in the U.S. State Department, predicted last month that De Klerk would come up with "interesting proposals" after the September election.

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## Islam and family planning

By Maher Mahran

Professor Dr. Maher Mahran is Secretary-General of the Egyptian National Population Council in Cairo

IN the time of the Prophet Mohammad, Muslims — both men and women — were never shy to ask the prophet about all affairs, including such private matters as sexual life, so as to know the teachings and rulings of their religion concerning them. As Aisha, the wife of the prophet tested, "Blessed are the women of the Ansar (the citizens of Medina). Shyness did not stand in their way of seeking knowledge about their religion."

The way the women asked the prophet — directly or through his wives — is a proof that sexual matters were not taboo but were fully acknowledged and respected. "Shyness is part of the faith" as the prophet taught, but he also taught "There is no shyness in matters of religion" ... even entailing the most delicate aspects of sexual life.

It is our firm belief that facts about sex should be taught to children in a way commensurate with their age as they grow up — both by the family and by the school. We emphasise that this should be done within the total context of Islamic ideology and Islamic teaching, so that young people — besides getting the correct physiological knowledge — become fully aware of the sanctity of sexual relations in Islam and the grave sin of blemishing such sanctity, whether under Islamic law or — far more important — in the sight of God. Provided the Islamic conscience is developed, we see no reason to shun sex education (as is unfortunately the rule in many Muslim countries). We believe it is better to give the correct teaching than to leave this to chance and to incorrect sources, and to the concomitant feeling of guilt resulting from the hush-hush atmosphere in which this is done.

Teaching about sex should also have its place in the curricula of medical schools, as it has in Kuwait and in Egypt. There should be no difficulty whatsoever with our religious and rather conservative men and women students, since the subject is taught within an Islamic perspective.

There is no doubt that family planning is a sexual problem. The aim of using contraception is to

have safe sex, sex which is free from the risk of unwanted pregnancy. However, an ideal contraceptive should not interfere with the act of sex. Proper counselling is essential for couples who want a happy family.

Some contraceptive methods may create sexual problems by their side-effects. In the case of steroids, for instance, breakthrough bleeding is a common complaint among users of low-dose pills, injectables and subdermal implants. In our culture, sex is usually not practised if the woman is bleeding. Breakthrough bleeding is an important reason for dropout because the husband does not want any constraint on his sexual activity. In rare cases steroid contraception may also cause diminished libido, or affect the woman's attractive feminine appearance by causing obesity, acne and breast atrophy.

The intrauterine device (IUD), if not correctly fitted, may cause pain to the husband during intercourse. Breakthrough bleeding and a higher incidence of menorrhagia and polymenorrhoea can be a sexual drawback, diminishing the sexual availability of the wife. Leucorrhoea, frequently associated with IUD, may interfere with sexual pleasure, especially that of the husband, whose wife may worry because she cannot meet her husband's sexual needs.

Methods which are directly related to the act of sexual intercourse include coitus interruptus, coitus reservatus, coitus intertempore, or the use of condom and diaphragm. These methods interfere with normal physiological sexual relations. The call for very high self-control in the case of physiological methods, and good training in the case of the diaphragm and the condom. They are not as reliable as the pill or the IUD. Moreover these techniques cannot be recommended at the beginning of marriage when there should be no constraint on sexual relations.

### The advantages

Despite these potential problems, the use of effective contraceptive methods will relieve all the worries of an unwanted pregnancy, and consequently the wife usually participates more actively in sexual relations. Some women react towards unprotected sexual relations by vaginismus or spasmodic contraction of the sphincter vaginae muscle, causing painful or difficult inter-



A religious leader in Egypt discusses family planning with a women's group.

a patient. Lack of counselling is a major cause behind the failure of many family planning programmes.

But this in turn calls for a counsellor who is well informed about reproduction, human sexuality, methods of contraception, mechanism of action, side-effects, contra-indications and how to recognise them. He or she should be interested in people, sympathetic and a good listener.

The couple should be taught to recognise the side-effects, and should know when to come for consultation and when to stop using a given method. The counsellor should help them to choose the best method and encourage them to persist in its use.

Some methods of family planning need education and training for both clients, doctors and nurses. Doctors need to be properly trained in how to insert an IUD, otherwise there could be a risk of it perforating the uterus, or they might position the device outside the uterine cavity where it

loses its contraceptive effect. They should also be trained in how to take it out properly, otherwise complications may develop. More training for doctors is needed in the insertion and removal of subdermal implants. And nurses in developing countries must be trained to give properly an intramuscular contraceptive injection.

As for the clients, women particularly need to have good information about the physiology and anatomy of the reproductive system. A knowledge of physiology is needed if natural family planning methods such as checking the viscosity of the cervical mucus or the calendar method are used. Women should be trained to locate the cervix in order to be able to insert a diaphragm or a cervical cap properly, to detect the IUD thread after every menstrual cycle, to detect the tip of the IUD if it is partially expelled, or to get a sample of cervical mucus for assessment — World Health.

## Schools — secret is not in the hours

By Reinhard Urschel

A FEW years ago a schoolboy writer for a south German school magazine made a monkey of the school in the simplest of ways.

He asked each teacher how much time he ought to spend daily on digesting and recapitulating what he had learnt.

The answers varied, from a quarter of an hour to an hour and a half per subject per day. None of the teachers seems to have noticed the twinkle in their interviewer's eye.

All he did was add up the total and — surprise, surprise — it was 26 hours a day.

The young practical joker proved, incidentally, that the teaching profession was not up to date where "secondary literature" about them was concerned.

This particular ploy was described in detail in a 1960s book entitled *Zur Holle mit den Paukern* which listed ways of getting even with your teacher.

Education Minister Horst Hormann of Lower Saxony may have been forewarned on this point. Soon after assuming office last year he noticed that many pupils have a longer working day than their teachers — and are in no position to lament as bitterly as teachers often do.

So he convened a two-day conference attended by academics and educationalists, psychologists and other members of the medical profession, parents and teachers.

He did so out of a sense of responsibility towards schoolchildren and with a view to compiling scientific facts in support of his idea of shortening schoolchildren's working hours and streamlining the curriculum.

The conference dealt with School-children's "Working Hours" — The Strain and Burden of School and Environment.

Educationalists last looked into stress at school in the 1970s, when they were more concerned with ideological aspects than they are today.

There was heated debate about whether homework constituted trespassing on domestic life, whether learning arts techniques by rote was more than superfluous ballast and, getting closer to the nitty gritty, whether continual reforms were not generating more pressure than they set out to ease.

The experts will recall, and not with pleasure, slogans such as *Leistungsdruk* (pressure to perform), *Notenterror* (grading terror) and *Schulerleid* (pupil hardship).

The humane school campaign was launched, with the strong support of Free Democrat Hildegarde Hamm-Brücher, then a leading Bavarian education ex-

pert and member of the Bonn coalition.

She drew up a documentation on what was called the "alarming increase in exaggerated demands made on pupils and its repercussions." It made headline news with its basic query: "Is school making our children kaput, and with them freedom and democracy?"

This idea took root. A few years later Werner Remmers, Lower Saxon Education Minister, felt able to claim that school was held responsible for all society's shortcomings and seen as some kind of repair workshop.

To this day the debate has not progressed much further. It has merely been joined by a new angle: leisure stress as an adjunct to school stress.

At the Hanover conference a Munich youth expert, Richard Munchmeier, outlined his view of the "two worlds" in which today's schoolchildren live.

Their leisure is packed full of colourful, fashionable, brief experiences of the kind constantly suggested by the advertising industry. They are engaged in an incessant quest for "action."

School, in contrast, is everyday, humdrum, deliberately played down and garded as of limited importance.

"Whenever school is mentioned," Munchmeier said, "the first, crucial point on which agreement must be reached is that school (school is Scheisse) ist Scheisse (school is crap)." Then the discussion can continue.

Conservative teachers and educationalists attribute this change in standards to a permissive society that permits anything and no longer sets standards.

Munchmeier's explanation is similar, but simpler. It is that young people today are allowed more freedom (the key of the door, to stay out for as long as they like, to make friends of the other sex), but this leeway doesn't really make them free. On the contrary, it gives rise to pressure."

The experts who still feel that a sense of pressure at school is due mainly to school itself are a declining band.

Frankfurt educationalist Professor Mitter told the conference that German schoolchildren spent about 10,300 hours at school before taking their Abitur, or university entrance exam.

The only country where the hours put in are longer in Japan, where pupils put in over 11,000 hours in 12 years at school.

The curriculum has ceased to be a bone of contention. Years of fruitless attempts to eliminate trying to teach too much material as a source of stress have evidently so tired the experts that they are now even keener to

identify extra-curricular causes.

Thomas Olk of Bielefeld University claims to have discovered a striking contradiction. He starts with the contention, borrowed from educationalists in the Ancient World, that young people have never had it so good. Over half today's 14-year-olds have TV sets of their own. Over 70 per cent have their own Walkman. Twenty-one per cent even have a personal computer of their own.

On average they get about DM50 a month in pocket money. But in this golden, material world growing pressure is brought to bear on them.

"Parents today project their expectations with regard to performance and career on to an only child," Olk says.

In middle-class families in particular, children today have become "a crystallisation point for parental wishful thinking." He feels many children are overtaxed as a result, emotionally speaking.

This was the point at which the conference could count itself lucky that Cornelia Giesecke, a 16-year-old schoolgirl, took to the rostrum and told the assembled experts what life was really like.

She leaves home at 6.45 a.m., walking the mile and a half to the bus stop in all weathers. It is a 20-minute bus drive, longer in ice and snow.

On average she has six lessons a day, with music at Monday luncheon. The conference dealt with School-children's "Working Hours" — The Strain and Burden of School and Environment.

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## The lobster mystery

By Marcia Emery

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Maine lobstermen are laying three times as much bait and scientists have even tried raising lobster larvae in test tanks, but the harvest of the tasty crustaceans hasn't increased in 20 years.

Marine biologists from the University of Maine and Bigelow Laboratory in West Boothbay are conducting a 10-day research cruise next month, and hope their investigation of breeding grounds will help explain the inability of lobstermen to increase their annual catch.

The lobstermen, some of whom have volunteered to help biologists as they map the ocean floor, are hoping the investigation will lead to bigger catches.

Lobster production is vital to Maine's economy, not least because of its contribution to tourism.

"We want to make sure that resource is around a thousand years from now. It's so much a part of our income, our history and our art, it's just incredibly important to us," said Dave Dow, director of the Lobster Institute, a trade organisation affiliated with the University of Maine.

The harvest of the "bugs," as they are affectionately called by lobstermen, has remained at about 9.5 million kilogrammes per year during the past two decades, despite legal, scientific, and practical measures to increase it.

Biologists at the Cudler Marine hatchery have coaxed thousands of lobster eggs to grow at a "natural" rate in warm-water tanks and then stocked coastal waters with the immature larvae.

State legislators have gradually increased the minimum size limit, hoping more females would mature and reproduce.

And lobstermen have worked harder; they haul about triple the number of traps they put out 20 years ago. But the lobsters have refused to take the extra bait, according to the Lobster Institute.

"There's a million lobster-seeking missiles waiting for those little fellows to hit the bottom ... these little fellows are subject to thousands of attacks a day."

Large codfish have been found to contain up to a dozen lobsters when they are cut open,

Dow said.

**Inspiration**

Barbara Hendricks (singer)

**SINCE** her debut at the San Francisco Opera in 1976, Barbara Hendricks, born in the United States on 20 November 1948, has sung in all the world's big musical capitals: Boston, Hamburg, Milan, Berlin, Paris, Los Angeles, London and Vienna. She has given numerous recitals in the United States and Europe, but also in the Soviet Union and Japan. She has sung with the best orchestras, and appeared in the most prestigious festivals, from Edinburgh to Osaka and from Salzburg to Aix en Provence. This summer, she will perform one of her finest roles, *Pamina*, in Mozart's "Magic Flute", at the Festival d'Orange. Barbara Hendricks is not only a very great singer, she is also Ambassador Extraordinary of the United Nations for Refugees and an active supporter of numerous organisations for the defence of Human Rights.

According to you, what are the most outstanding events of the French Revolution: the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the death of the king and the fall of the royalty, the abolition of privileges, the advent of the Republic, the Constitution which was the application of the philosophy of Enlightenment, or the guillotine? Why?

The Declaration of the Rights of Man because it is an event of universal scope, and not anecdotal like the other events. Would you have actively participated in the French Revolution or would you have fought against it?

I would, of course, have fought for the ideas of liberty, but I would certainly not have been able to take part in the barbarity linked to the revolutionary context.

Which is the most important human right, in your opinion?

Equality between all men, as specified in article 1 of the Declaration.

Do the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of Man inspire your actions? In what ways?

They inspire all the aspects of my life. Every day, I fight in favour of human rights. More precisely, I am a "good will ambassador" at the High Commission for refugees in the United Nations and give my very active support to organisations such as Amnesty International, Terre des Hommes, Médecins du Monde, etc. — L'Actualité en France.

"If mother nature, because of the way she works the tides and currents, doesn't allow delivery to the appropriate habitats, that's going to be important for the overall production," Dow said.

The public's appetite for lobster also is matched by the appetites of various marine creatures, he said.

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**1) JEWEL** Show time: 3:30 p.m.

**2) JEWEL** Show times: 6:15, 8:30, 11:00 p.m.

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Cinema JEWEL** Tel: 677420

**3) JEWEL** Show time: 3:30 p.m.

## U.S. Senate weighs amendments to defence bill before vote

**WASHINGTON** (Agencies) — The U.S. Senate has weighed amendments that would impose a ceiling on U.S. troops stationed in Europe and require President George Bush to negotiate with Japan on shouldering a larger share of the defence burden.

"There can be no free lunches and no free rides," said Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in introducing the measures as the chamber resumed consideration of the fiscal 1990 defence budget.

Under the First Amendment, prompted by reports that U.S. allies plan significant cuts in their forces, a ceiling would be placed on the ratio of U.S. active duty forces stationed in Europe to non-U.S. NATO active duty forces.

The measure, according to Nunn, would strengthen the NATO position in conventional arms reduction talks with the Warsaw Pact nations and dissuade U.S. allies from unilateral reductions before an agreement is reached.

"This would put an arrow in President Bush's quiver," Nunn told his colleagues. He added that the measure sends a message to U.S. allies:

The Fourth Amendment calls

for a study of options for reducing the costs worldwide for U.S. overseas dependents.

The Senate continued work on its version of the defence bill with Bush indicating he is relying on the senators to keep his strategic programmes intact.

Bush chided the House of Representatives Friday for turning the administration's defence package upside down with a \$1.8 billion cut in "Star Wars," strict limitations on production of the B-2 Stealth bomber and reductions in ICBMs, including all \$100 million earmarked for the Midgetman missile.

"Star Wars" is the U.S. plan for a space-based missile defence system, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative.

The democratic-controlled House also restored two planes — the F-14D Tomcat jet fighter and V-22 Osprey — that Bush planned to cancel.

President Bush Monday vetoed a bill that would have imposed conditions on a U.S.-Japan deal to build the FSX jet fighter, the White House said.

Responding to congressional complaints about the project, negotiated by the previous Reagan administration, Bush ear-

lier this year won Japanese concessions that helped squelch a move to kill the deal.

His veto of a measure that would have imposed conditions on the deal allows the project to go forward on terms agreed to by the U.S. administration and the Japanese government.

"The resolution is neither necessary to protect the interest of the United States nor consistent with longstanding requirements of the arms export control act," he said in a message to the Senate.

Bush added that the measure contained provisions that "unconstitutionally infringe" on the foreign-policy-making powers of the president.

The FSX, an advanced version of the U.S. F-16, is to be co-developed by General Dynamics, a leading U.S. defence manufacturer, and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

"The FSX programme is the first major military co-development programme between the United States and Japan," Bush said. "The FSX will bolster Japan's self-defence capability, strengthen our overall alliance with Japan and allow Japan to assume a greater share of the common defence burden."

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan is likely to slash its 1988-93 five-year development plan by 15 to 25 per cent through lack of funds, the official APP news agency reported Monday. At present the seventh five-year plan is estimated at 642.4 billion rupees (\$32.12 billion), including a fixed investment of 350 billion rupees (\$14.4 billion) in the public sector. A 29.2 billion rupees (\$1.6 billion) investment was planned in the private sector. The Planning and Development Ministry of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's eight-month-old government has begun looking at areas where cuts could be made, APP said. It gave no details. The plan was prepared by the government of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, killed in a plane crash last August. Bhutto complained after winning elections in November that Zia left an empty exchequer.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Spain's stock markets adopt new system

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain's stock markets rose Monday, the first day of trading under the most sweeping changes in the bourses' 158-year-old history. The reform, known as "El Big Bang," is designed to broaden the Spanish markets' trading base, tighten disclosure controls to eliminate insider trading and bring the stock exchanges in line with others in Europe. Provisional figures indicated the Madrid General Index reached 303.93, up 1.70 over Friday. Valencia rose 1.76 points to 245.06 and Barcelona's index registered 106.47, up .73 points. The Bilbao market was closed for a regional holiday. Dealers said trading on the three exchanges remained light, largely due to investors concern about the changeover and recent government moves to restrict credit and slow the country's overheated economy.

#### Oil flows again from North Sea fields

LONDON (R) — Occidental Petroleum Corp said Monday it had restarted production from a North Sea oilfield shut down since the world's worst offshore oil rig disaster on the nearby Piper Alpha Platform a year ago. A spokeswoman for Occidental's British unit said the Scape Field resumed production on July 29 and was building up to its former production levels of around 22,000 barrels of crude per day (BPD). Industry sources said the neighbouring Claymore Field, which pumped an average 70,000 BPD before the Piper explosion in July 1988 which killed 167 men, was expected to come back on stream either late Monday or early on Tuesday. Occidental said they expected to make a statement on Claymore Tuesday. The impending return of the two fields, more than two months later than originally forecast by Occidental, will provide a much-needed boost to British oil production. Output is currently languishing at ten-year lows of around 1.36 million BPD, partly as a result of the capacity lost through the Piper explosion. Five fields, including Claymore and Scape, depended on the Piper Alpha platform to export their oil.

#### Pakistan may cut development plan

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#### Maxwell's media empire unveils profit rise

LONDON (R) — Robert Maxwell said Monday his publishing empire's pre-tax profits rose by 15.7 per cent last year and new acquisitions had made it one of the world's top 10 media companies. Maxwell Communication Corp (MCC) shares rose five pence (.3 cents) on the news to £2.08 (\$3.4) although the results were a shade below some analysts' expectations. Profits before tax increased to £192 million (\$319 million) in the 15 months until the end of March from 166 million (\$275 million) in calendar 1987. The 15-month accounting period was created to take account of big changes in the structure of the corporation in 1988. "Before the end of the financial year (March 1990), our group will be a purely publishing and communications group," Maxwell said of the restructuring. "With the disposal of our major U.K. printing businesses, the group's assets, revenues and profits have shifted decisively to North America," he said in a statement. A major part of MCC's restructuring was the purchase of U.S. publisher MacMillan in November for \$2.26 billion.

#### Guinea worm drive raises \$8m

LAGOS (R) — An international campaign has raised pledges of about \$8 million to eradicate guinea worm, but much more is needed, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Monday. He said a total of \$62 million was needed to achieve a 1995 target for wiping out the disease which afflicts about 10 million people, mainly in Africa. "Few other diseases torture their victims as much, physically and psychologically, as this one does," Carter told a conference sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, and other bodies including the humanitarian organisation Global 2000 of which he is chairman. Guinea worm larvae live in stagnant pools and grow inside the bodies of people who drink the water without filtering or boiling it. Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida announced a donation worth about \$1 million to the campaign, saying his country had the largest concentration of victims of the disease.

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## JPMC exports in July reaches 679,300 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) last month exported 679,300 tonnes of phosphate, up from 659,000 tonnes in June 1989, according to an official statistical bulletin.

These figures, Azar noted, reflect the great development in the process of exporting Jordanian phosphate. Azar predicted that Jordan will be able to export 6.4 million tonnes of phosphates during 1989 against 5.8 million tonnes of raw phosphate has been ex-

ported to various countries in addition to 314,000 tonnes of phosphoric fertilizers to four countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

The company director, Wasef Azar, said that 32 cargo vessels were used to export the total amount to 19 nations. He said that in the first seven months of 1989, a total of 4.13 million tonnes of raw phosphate has been ex-

### Airlines to raise ticket prices in Jordan by 20%

AMMAN (Petra) — Air tickets sold by Royal Jordanian (RJ) and all other airlines operating in Jordan will rise in price by 20 per cent as of Aug. 7, 1989, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

An RJ official said that the increase in prices will affect all tickets sold by any airline in the Kingdom and that the decision was taken upon the recommendation of a committee representing all airlines in the country.

### 4 more U.S. banks lower lending rates

NEW YORK (AP) — Four major U.S. commercial banks including the nation's largest have lowered their prime lending rates a half percentage point to 10.5 per cent, signalling lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

First Bank of Chicago was the first to take the step shortly before the opening of the stock market, with Chemical Bank, Continental Bank and No. 1 City Bank quickly joining in.

The reduction, effective immediately, follows similar cuts by San Francisco-based Bank of America, Friday and Chase Manhattan Bank more than three weeks ago. A few other smaller banks have reduced their prime rates since Chase's move.

The prime rate reflects a bank's costs of borrowing money, including interest it pays on savings accounts or certificates of de-

posit, and trails more subtle increases in other interest rates.

The rate is watched closely because bankers use it as a basis for calculating loans to businesses and for determining many types of fixed and adjustable-rate consumer loans. Mortgage rates are not included in that category.

Monday's decrease was widely expected by most economists due to continuing signs that the Federal Reserve is seeking looser credit policies in response to a slowdown in economic growth.

Economists have speculated that major banks did not immediately follow Chase, which cut its prime rate on July 10.

The Federal Funds Rate, the interest on overnight loans between banks, traded at 8.75 per cent by late Monday morning, down from 8.15-16 per cent Friday.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, August 1, 1989		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	418.9 423.1
Dutch guilder		272.4 275.1	
Pound Sterling	524.3 525.8	85.9 90.8	
Deutschmark	307.2 310.3	42.9 43.3	
Swiss franc	356.3 359.9	147.0 148.5	
French franc	90.3 91.7		

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.6590/60	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1795/05	Canadian dollar	
	1.8658/65	Deutschmarks	
	2.1042/52	Dutch guilders	
	1.6090/100	Swiss francs	
	39.06/09	Belgian francs	
	6.3150/200	French francs	
	1341/1342	Italian lire	
	136.54/64	Japanese yen	
	6.3750/800	Swedish crowns	
	6.8450/500	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2525/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	370.30/370.70	U.S. dollars	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Off-shore interest and gains on Wall Street boosted the All Ordinaries Index 4.4 points to 1,638.7.

TOKYO — Profit-takers put the brakes on the Tokyo Stock Market after Monday's sharp gains. "Prices have been moving too fast," commented Takehiko Furukawa of DB Capital Markets. The Nikkei Index lost 55.61 points to 34,898.46.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index rose 7.88 points to 2,578.96. Shares were supported by fresh corporate moves.

SINGAPORE — Profit-taking after a post-crash high pushed the Straits Times Industrial 5.21 lower to 1,368.08.

BOMBAY — The market opened shakily but rallied strongly on heavy buying by state-owned investment trusts.

FRANKFURT — The market surged to 1989 highs in hectic start-of-the-month trade, with investors scrambling to stock up on blue chips. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax Index gained 24.75 to 1,578.91.

ZURICH — The market was closed for a national holiday. PARIS — Shares closed higher as the market bounced back after heavy selling Monday. The 50-share Bourse indicator rose by 0.63 per cent.

LONDON — Prices ended weak but off the day's lows. Lack of corporate news and an absence of fresh British economic data made for quiet trading. At 1600 GMT, the FTSE index was up 4.7 at 2,292.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks rallied as so-called bond prices ignited buying interest. The Dow advanced 13 to 2,673.

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne and Under the Patronage of the Prime Minister

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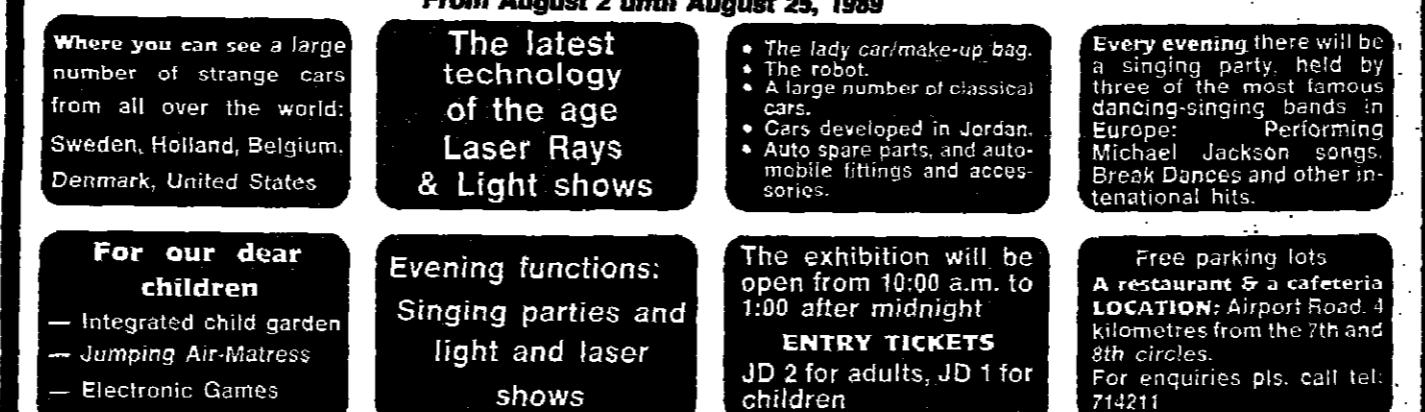
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## Graf shows no mercy to Rene Simpson

SAN DIEGO (R) — West Germany's Steffi Graf, the world's top player, needed 41 minutes Monday night to power past Canadian Rene Simpson 6-0, 6-0 in the opening round of a \$200,000 women's tennis tournament.

Graf, 20, who won her second Wimbledon title last month, used her lethal forehand to beat the 23-year-old lefthander for the second consecutive time without yielding a game.

"It was just perfect tonight. There wasn't very much I could do wrong out there," said the top seed, who yielded just 15 points against Simpson, ranked 80th in the world.

"She overpowered me and abused my second serve," said Simpson.

"It's not an embarrassment to lose to her because she's such a great player. I thought I could stay in the points with her and rally two or three times. But she hit outright winners off her forehand," Simpson said.

"I consider myself to be fast on the court, but I didn't even hit half her balls."

"I honestly don't know how people beat her."

Graf now faces unseeded American Betsy Nagelsen who posted a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Australian Liz Smylie.

In first-round upsets, third-seed Susan Sloane of the United States had trouble serving and fell to fellow American Robin White 7-5, 6-3.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF

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### USE EVERY SPOT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ 8 4  
♥ A X 9 7 5  
♦ Q J 9 3  
♦ 9 8 4

**WEST**  
♦ K 7 5  
♥ ♦ 9 6 3 2  
♦ J 6 4 2  
♦ Q J 10 8 3

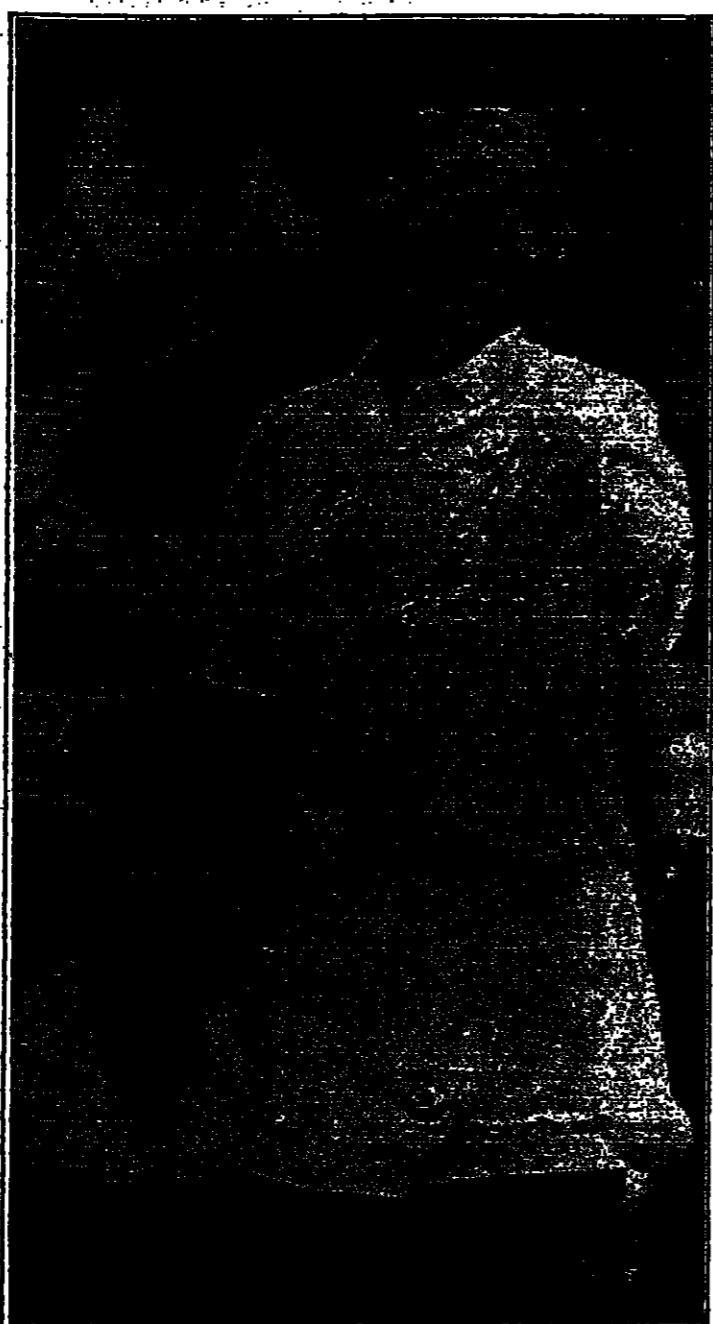
**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q J 10  
♥ Void  
♦ A K Q 10 8 6 2  
♦ A K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass  
5 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

We tend to treat our deuces and treys with disdain, thinking they're unimportant. Just how crucial they can be is highlighted by this hand.

It is usually wrong to use Blackwood when you have a void in your hand. Here, however, it could not cost, since declarer was sure he could enter partner's hand in trumps to use winners there for discards. Indeed, had North held two kings and no ace, declarer could



## Tyson: they want to see me fail

NEW YORK (R) — Mike Tyson, shagging off suggestions his personal troubles affect him in the ring, said in a television interview eight days after stopping Carl "The Truth" Williams with a shattering left hook in just 93 seconds of the first round, said after watching a rerun of the fight: "I just like it when they're easy like that."

Tyson, asked if the turmoil in his personal life affects him, said, "...I'm comfortable with myself. I'm really comfortable with myself."

He said he was concerned "to a certain extent" about his personal image.

"I always think if I was just some poor, broke slob, very unhappy, nobody would ever bother me, everybody would be satisfied."

"Let me say, I'm happy, I'm rich and I don't let anything bother me and that makes people uncomfortable."

great champion, Tyson, 7-0, said: "I'm not indestructible. But everyone has his day. (Joe) Louis had his time, (Muhammad) Ali had his time, and in that small increment of time when you're on top you're unbeatable."

"I'm not saying I'm a great champion, or put myself in the category with Louis and Ali and (Rocky) Marciano and all those great fighters."

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

**IVANCHUK WIN TAKES HIM TO TOP:** Soviet favourite Vasily Ivanchuk defeated American Anthony Miles in Berne Monday to share the lead with Lev Polugayevsky after 11 rounds of the Biennale Grandmasters Chess Tournament. Ivanchuk, ranked third in the world, won after 49 moves. Polugayevsky, his Soviet compatriot, defeated Yugoslavia's Ivan Sokolov after an equal number of moves. Both winners played black. (AP)

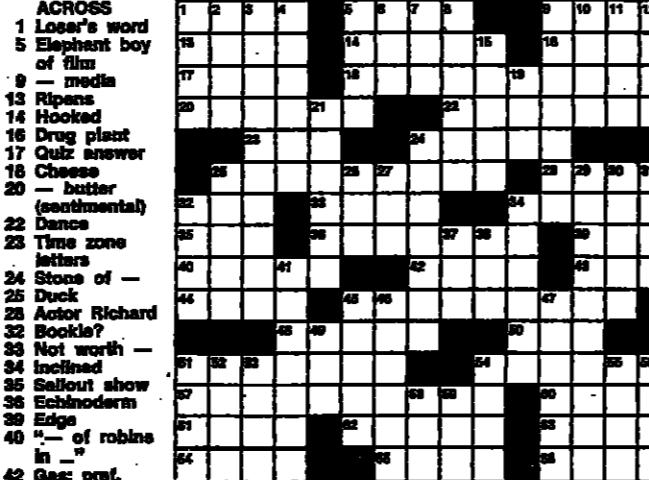
**CHANG ADVANCES IN VERMONT:** French Open champion Michael Chang, the youngest male Grand Slam winner in history, easily won his first match at the \$602,500 international '89 tennis tournament Monday, beating fellow-American Pete Sampras 6-4, 6-4. "When you get the first match under your belt you get into the groove of things," said Chang, 17, the tournament's second seed. Chang and Sampras, 18, are frequent practice partners, who worked together for two weeks before the French Open where Chang beat Sampras in the second round. Although Monday's score appeared deceptively close, Chang had the upperhand throughout the match. (R)

**IRAQ APPEALS AGAINST FIFA DECISION:** Iraq has appealed against a decision by the international football federation, FIFA, to ban its youth teams from participating in international competition as punishment for fielding an over-age player in the last world youth championship. Dhiya Hassan, chief of the information department of the Iraqi Football Association told the Associated Press in Baghdad Iraq has asked FIFA to reverse the decision made and announced last week by the federation secretary Sepp Blatter. FIFA banned Iraq's teams of under-16, under-20 and under-23 after they discovered that an Iraqi player was older than the limit for a world youth tournament in Saudi Arabia last February. The ban was imposed for two years. It does not apply to senior tournaments. Hassan did not say on what grounds Iraq's appeal to a special FIFA committee will be based. But he said Iraq is hopeful that FIFA will reverse its decision. Hassan said Iraq will continue its preparations for the Palestine Youth Cup tournament due to start in Baghdad later this month with 15 Arab teams taking part. (AP)

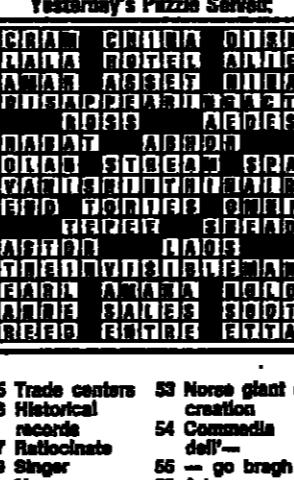
## HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

### THE Daily Crossword

by Elizabeth Arthur



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



## Peking may need to divert resources from provinces

## China struggles with Asian games

PEKING (R) — Preparations for next year's Asian Games despite shortages of cash and electricity and the presence of tens of thousands of martial law troops in the city.

Asian diplomats said Tuesday the games were on vital national importance and would be held even if they deprived residents of electricity in the power-starved city.

The athletes may find themselves in close contact with thousands of troops enforcing martial law.

Many residents believe the troops will still be in Peking when the athletes arrive and that martial law will be abolished only after the games.

The leaders are afraid that once the troops leave we will go back to Tiananmen Square and mourn those they killed. They are afraid of more student protests," a taxi driver said.

"They are right. We may well go to the square."

sports venues, sprucing up 11 existing ones and building a games village for the athletes.

This is very important for China's prestige," said a Southeast Asian diplomat. "It will use the games to show to the world what it can do."

A diplomat said Hong Kong and overseas Chinese originally counted on by Peking for contributions would probably donate less because of anger over the killings.

"China may be forced to turn for money to the Asian Games federation or the participating countries," he said.

Providing enough electricity in a city where demand exceeds supply by 10 per cent is another problem.

The Economic Daily said proposals included a cut in supply to other parts of north China or a special allocation of 500,000 tonnes to enable power stations to boost output during the three-week sports festival.

## FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNISIA

### FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Aly Abdullah A. Braheem	M. Aly	Owner	Aly	56
2- Mohammad Khalid Markey	W. Hazim	Owner	54.5	
3- Taha Nimir A. Mousa	N. Elsebahi	Owner	George	54.5
4- Mohammad Ghareeb	Araby	Owner	Mosata	53
5- Shihadi Aly Fokara	N. Nasif	Owner	Yousef	51.5
6- Ouditalah Mary Hamam	Halah	Owner	Saem	51.5
7- Rabie Adnan A. Hassan	D. Rabe	Owner	A. Arshar	51.5
8- Ahmad Oudh-EI Badawy	Safy	Owner	Rasheed	50
9- Thamer Hazzza El Hadid	Ettaiel	Owner	Younis	50
10- Tahir Youssef Awadhi	G. Tahir	Owner	Saad	50
11- Dr. A. El Naem A. Wandy	S. Maseen	Owner	50	
12- Nadir Salamih Hamad	F. Nadir	Owner	50	
13- Dr. A. Hafez A. Wandy	S. Maseen	Owner	Ahmed	50
14- Oudh Aly Mahameed	A. Mousa	Owner	Suleiman	48.5
15- Abdulla El Dawoud	Ghobar	Owner	Hany	50

### SECOND RACE 4.30

### FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Salim Aly Rabayah	Monatay	Khalid	Jamal	54.5
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Abbas	Rida	Alaa	51.5
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	F. Amman	Rida	Ibrahim	50
4- Nimir El Hmoud	B. Shams	Rida	A. Jaghr	51.5
5- Nimir El Hmoud	Azary	Rida	F. Houda	51.5
6- Samy Haddadin	Khalid	Rida	Mahasin	48.5
7- Mansour Anwar Shalan	Zaidan	Rida	Kutsum	48.5
8- Ghaleb Haddadin	Hanea	Dinar	Hussein	48.5

### THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ahmad Mohammad Ashran	Samah	Owner	54.5	
2- Shihadi Aly Fokara	F. Rady	Owner	54.5	
3- Mohammad Salman Nabolsy	Sabah	Owner	Yousef	54.5
4- Hamad Nahar Souf	N. Hamad	Owner	Anwar	53
5- Mohammad Azizam Jamamy	M. Khaled	Owner	Jibrat	51.5
6- Dr. A. El Haleez A. Wandy	A. Meen	Owner	Saad	51.5
7- Mislim Khalil Kifan	Kessas	Owner	Younis	50
8- Sami Haddadin -	M. Turk	Rasheed	Hafsa	50
9- Mishal Majeed Feizel	Hanea	Owner	Daham	48.5

### FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Nimir El Hmoud	El Hasna	Rida	Ibrahim	53.5
2- Nimir El Hmoud	Kamar	Rida	53.5	
3- Al. El Kareem Salim Rakad	M. Elkakad	Owner	55	
4- Samy Haddadin	Waheed	Owner	56	
5- Aly Faried Eissad	F. Noaf	Khaireldin	55.5	
6- Kamal Wasil Bharat	Mashalei	Khaireldin	55.5	
7- Ghaleb Haddadin	Yamamah	Owner	54.5	
8- Harry El Haddadin	Rose	Owner	54.5	
9- Ouditalah El Hamam	H. Mary	Owner	51.5	
10- Nawaf Anwar Shalan	Sanad	Zaidan	50	

### FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS & BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Aly Faried El Saad	J. Elsaed	Khaireldin	Rasheed	60
2- Aly Faried El Saad	Saad Aly	Khaireldin	Jamal	56
3- Nimir El Hmoud	Hatab	Rida	Hany	60
4- Nawaf Anwar Shalan	Ahid	Mouhsin	53	
5- Ibrahim Hany Bshrat	F. Khair	Khaireldin	56	
6- Mamdouh Anwar Shalan	Elsay	Zaidan	Kasim	50
7- Nejef Anwar Shalan	Hattaf	Zaidan	Saad	5

## FBI, press tail Bloch

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. diplomat Felix S. Bloch, suspected of spying for the Soviets, sipped grapefruit juice and calmly watched for 45 minutes as a foreign correspondent showed him videotapes and clippings of how his story is being told in his native Austria.

"I tried and tried, but he said he wouldn't answer questions on the substance of his case," said Robert Weisner, the Washington correspondent for state-run Austrian Television. He said Bloch looked "rather surprisingly" relaxed Monday, as reviewed the tapes.

Bloch also read Austrian newspaper accounts of the case, which Weisner showed him during Bloch's 45-minute visit to the offices of Austrian Television Monday afternoon in the Georgetown section of the capital.

On his first day back in the nation's capital after more than a week in the New York City area, Bloch emerged alone from the back door of his apartment in the fashionable Kalorama section and strolled to Georgetown.

Bloch was followed by about 15 people, including reporters and photographers, two cars with television cameramen and a car containing two grim-faced men, presumably agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

To reporters who queried him along the way, Bloch said, "I'm hardly a free man, you know. I'd love to put it behind me."

The 54-year-old diplomat was placed on paid leave by the State Department June 22. His diplomatic passport has been revoked, but he has not been charged with any crime. He is followed any time he goes out by FBI agents and reporters.

Weisner said he managed to reach Bloch by telephone Monday and "asked him if he wanted to come and talk and see what Austrian Television reported on his case."

Bloch replied that he was coming to Georgetown on other business and would be willing to stop in. From there, he went to his lawyer's office.

Bloch returned to Washington after spending more than a week with his father in Manhattan and his daughter in Chappaqua, New York.

At the Justice Department, spokesman David Runkel said news reports that began with an ABC news segment July 21 may have hurt the FBI's ability to collect evidence against Bloch.



Polish shoppers fight their way into a Warsaw butchery Monday to beat price rises, which came into effect Tuesday.

**Food prices soar in Poland amid party crisis**

## Deputies revolt against Kiszcak

WARSAW (Agencies) — Communist and pro-Communist deputies staged an unprecedented revolt Tuesday against the appointment of Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszcak as Poland's new prime minister.

A vote on the nomination was unexpectedly postponed until Wednesday after 13 Communists and 60 deputies of the allied Peasants Party told their parliamentary caucuses they would not vote for Kiszcak.

The possibility of a new coalition allying the Peasants with the Solidarity opposition movement, which would have a majority in the Sejm (lower house) and Senate (upper house), simultaneously emerged.

Peasant Party parliamentary leader Aleksander Bentkowski, whose party has been in a ruling coalition with the Communists since the 1940s, said Kiszcak was unacceptable as prime minister.

"He is a general and he is associated with martial law," Bentkowski told reporters. Kiszcak, 63, was responsible as interior minister for execution of martial law regulations imposed by General Wojciech Jaruzelski in 1981 to crush Solidarity.

"After a president-general would be a little martial law," Bentkowski said. This was a reference to Jaruzelski's election as president under two weeks ago.

Jan Litinski, a prominent Solidarity deputy, simultaneously told opposition deputies that Peasant deputies were proposing a coalition government with Soli-

darity headed by Bronislaw Geremek, Solidarity's parliamentary leader.

"Such a coalition would have a majority in parliament so the last argument against a solidarity-led government — that we lack a majority — falls," Litinski told the Solidarity parliamentary caucus.

Earlier, Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa called for opposition lawmakers to vote against Kiszcak.

In a brief statement issued only minutes before the parliament was to meet to hear Kiszcak's nomination from Jaruzelski, Wałęsa said he would have supported Kiszcak, the longtime interior minister, to be president.

But, he said, "I am against Gen. Kiszcak's candidacy for prime minister."

The statement did not elaborate, but Wałęsa has urged Jaruzelski to accede to the popular will and let Solidarity form a government. The free trade union movement won overwhelming electoral approval in June.

Meanwhile Polish food prices soared by up to 500 per cent Tuesday when steps to free them from government control and fill empty shelves took effect.

Meat rationing ended but prices rose faster than at any time since World War Two as steps to revive the economy took hold.

## Soviet railways at work despite fears of strike

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Railway Ministry said trains were running normally Tuesday — an apparent victory for both officials and radical reformers who had urged railmen not to strike.

"There are no interruptions in the work of the railways. They are all working according to schedule," said a spokesman for the ministry.

Aug. 1 was first mentioned as a date for a rail strike by President Mikhail Gorbachev more than a week ago, and took on extra weight at the weekend when leading Soviet newspapers warned that such a strike could bring chaos and catastrophe.

But checks with other regional centres which had figured in the reports of possible labour trouble — including the Armenian capital of Yerevan and the Byelorussian industrial centre of Vitebsk — showed business as normal.

"All that publicity was designed to calm the public which may have heard the rumours," said the diplomat. "But if I were living outside a major city, I would go out and stock up immediately."

Analysts say that the railways

haul 95 per cent of the Soviet Union's coal and more than 90 per cent of its petroleum products. Any prolonged stoppage would curtail deliveries to foreign as well as domestic customers.

Official Soviet figures show roughly one-third of all goods are hauled by rail, which accounts for almost all long-haul transport. There is no comprehensive road network.

ways have much in common with them," said Railway worker Anatoly Markovich, among the radical deputies.

"But if a strike started on the railways it would spread very fast. It would be disaster for democracy," he said.

His views were shared by more than 50 railway men who signed an appeal published in the rail workers' newspaper Gudok, calling on their comrades not to "destabilise" the economy and Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms.

There is little doubt that a rail strike would be a disaster, especially in the wake of the recent miners' strike, which wrested a package of concessions from the government of up to 5.3 billion rubles (\$8.8 billion). It remained unclear where those funds would be found.

Radical deputies to the Soviet parliament, meeting at the weekend, joined in the call for restraint, saying that a rail stoppage on top of a miners' strike just settled could be used as a pretext to halt reforms.

"The miners' demands showed that their problems are very similar to those of workers in other sectors, and that we in the rail-

## COLUMN

### Pekinese rounded up

PEKING (R) — Authorities in Peking have launched a campaign for a mass round-up of dogs to counter the threat of rabies. "Urgently mobile and rise up; step up the extermination and control of dogs" was the battle cry of Peking Deputy Mayor He Huli at a meeting reported by city media. A Peking resident with dogs in his street said the usual method was to bludgeon them to death.

### Love on altar

BARCELONA (R) — Police arrested two teenagers caught making love on the altar of a Barcelona church. A police spokesman said officers surprised an 18-year-old Spaniard and his Finnish girlfriend naked on the altar during a Sunday afternoon hull between services. A magistrate is considering whether to charge the couple — now in police custody — with obscenity, the spokesman said. Police went to the church following a telephone tip off.

### Murder on a Hague street

THE HAGUE (R) — A crowd at a Dutch outdoor cafe applauded as they watched a man shoot dead his companion, believing they were watching well-acted street theatre — but it was real-life murder. Police said the two men were walking by the cafe when one man, in a seemingly dramatic gesture, pushed his companion to the ground, pulled out a pistol and shot him five times. Patrons at the cafe in the Dutch town of Nijmegen applauded what they believed was a spontaneous piece of street theatre. Their impression of a play was strengthened when the killer calmly strolled to a nearby telephone to report to police and wait to be arrested.

"Some people sitting at the cafe didn't realise what was happening. They thought it was all an act. But it was a settling of accounts between two men with past criminal records," a police spokesman said. Police said the man was being questioned in a murder probe.

### 'Beethoven' draws U.S. expenses

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department approved \$9,000 in travel expenses for "Ludwig van Beethoven," just one of 18,000 advances that have not been accounted for, a foreign policy watchdog group said. "There's a policy of being just totally lax" about travel advances at the State Department, said Carl Olson, chairman of the Washington-based State Department watch group. The person who used the name of the dead German composer listed his social security number as 123-45-6789 when he asked for \$9,769.59, Olson said in a telephone interview.

### Reward for stolen gold flutes

LUCERNE (AP) — Flautist James Galway has offered a reward for the return of five gold flutes, which were stolen last week. He said the thief would have difficulty selling the instruments, but he was not confident he would ever see his instruments again. The world-famous musician said the flutes, each worth about 50,000 Swiss francs (\$30,000) disappeared last Wednesday at the railway station in Lucerne as he was loading luggage into his car after he turned home from a tour of the United States and a holiday in London. He said the thief would have difficulty selling the instruments because they are rare.

### Global weather

#### (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	12	54	18
ATHENS	22	72	34
BAHRAM	32	50	29
BANGKOK	26	70	33
BUENOS AIRES	28	75	33
CAIRO	22	75	15
CHICAGO	20	69	24
COPENHAGEN	15	59	27
FRANKFURT	11	52	21
GENEVA	17	63	36
HONG KONG	26	70	28
ISTANBUL	19	66	27
LONDON	12	54	26
LOS ANGELES	18	63	29
MADRID	18	64	36
MELBOURNE	27	61	42
MOSCOW	17	56	28
NEW DELHI	14	57	27
NEW YORK	18	64	22
PARIS	14	57	22
ROME	18	64	32
SYDNEY	15	65	31
TOKYO	23	73	25
VIENNA	13	56	20

## Most KAL bodies unidentified

"There will be 66 or 67 bodies on the cargo plane," Lee said. "The reason for the doubt is that we are not quite sure whether one of the dead women was Korean or Japanese. If she is identified as Korean by the time the plane leaves, she will be included."

Among the bodies returning to Seoul was that of a 12-year-old Korean girl, Hyun Jung Kim. She had been en route to Tripoli to visit her father, Dae Sik Kim, accompanied by her mother, Kyung Hye Kim.

The mother survived. There was no word on the progress of the Korean-Libyan inquiry into the causes of the crash.

Airport authorities said the tapes in the black boxes containing the flight procedures during the moments before the crash have been recovered but may have to be sent to Italy or the United States to be interpreted.



A relative of one of the victims of the Korean Airlines crash in Libya lies before a mortuary set up by the airlines in Seoul.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### BBC broadcasts Rushdie programme

LONDON (R) — A television programme about Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was aired by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Monday despite an appeal from the archbishop of Canterbury to postpone it. Robert Runcie, spiritual head of the Anglican Church, said in a letter to the BBC the broadcast could further inflame Muslim passions over the Indian-born writer sentenced to death by Iran for alleged blasphemy against Islam. Called the "Blasphemers' Banquet," the programme was an imaginary feast for freethinkers such as Moliere, Voltaire, Omar Khayyam and Byron, who also were accused of blasphemy in their day.

### Indian awarded Magsaysay prize

MANILA (AP) — Lakshmi Jain, a development economist and champion of India's poor, has been awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service for 1989, the award foundation announced. Lakshmi, who lives in New Delhi, becomes the 27th Indian cited for achievement by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

### No marine pension for North

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. navy has said it would abide by a ruling depriving retired Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North of his \$22,000 a year Marine Corps pension because of his conviction in the Iran-contra affair. The General Accounting Office (GAO), a non-partisan arm of Congress, said in a letter made public Monday that if North still wanted his pension he would have to sue for it.

### 8 singers flee Chinese opera troupe

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Chinese opera company returned to Shanghai after eight singers, including two stars, fled the troupe in San Francisco, officials said. The performers who left the 23-member Kun Opera "were instigated by people with motives to bring damage to China," said Wang Shouhua, an official.

### Palme's convicted killer appeals verdict

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Swedish drifter convicted of killing Prime Minister Olof Palme Monday asked an appeals court to overturn the judgment. The move was widely expected. Arne Ljiljeros, Christer Pettersson's attorney, had said he would appeal when the verdict and life sentence were announced last Thursday. Birgitta Blom, president of Svea court of appeals, said the case could be heard as early as Sept. 7.

### Former Cuban minister, 3 others held

HAVANA (R) — Former Cuban Interior Minister General Jose Abrautes and three other former ministry chiefs have been arrested in a continuing crackdown on corruption, the official newspaper Granma reported. The front-page announcement also reported that five brigadier generals had been demoted to colonel and retired as part of a thorough investigation and shakeup at the ministry.

## U.S. amateurs rankle career diplomats

By Deborah Zabarenko  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Chic Hecht, a former senator with no diplomatic experience, says his keen interest in golf and gambling makes him a perfect U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas.

Evelyn Teegan, whose governmental background is confined to being executive director of the Minnesota Seat Belt Commission, will represent the United States in Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Joy Silverman, described by the White House as a "full-time, active participant in president (George) Bush's 1988 campaign," has been named envoy to the Caribbean islands of Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

These are just three of Bush's 44 diplomatic appointments that have provoked critics, who say the president has overstepped the line that governs how many purely political appointees. By Sarbanes' count, 30 of Bush's nominations — 68 per cent — are political appointees.

The appointment of amateur diplomats sends a distressing message to those who have spent their careers in the foreign service, said Hewson Ryan, a former U.S. ambassador to Honduras with 29 years experience.

"The (career) people get rather discouraged after working for 20 years when they see a used car salesman or the wife of a used car salesman put in as ambassador," Ryan told Reuters.

While political appointments

are nothing new, Bush seems to have made especially unprepared nominations, which could erode U.S. diplomatic standing abroad, he said.

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs lambasted Bush for his nomination of Thomas Strook, a Wyoming oilman who was a major contributor to the president's campaign, as envoy to Guatemala.

"Strook's appointment to this troubled country has to be interpreted as a sign from the White House that Washington is less than serious about curtailing rights abuses or preventing Guatemala's return to open military rule," the council said in a statement.

But Bush has not gone beyond previous presidents in the number of his political